

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, insert the following section immediately after the title:

This application is a divisional of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 10/021,230 filed on October 30, 2001.

On page 5, amend the paragraph on lines 8-12 as follows:

FIG. 2 is a drawing showing a fragmentary top view of a slide-zipper assembly attached to a packaging film and oriented in a transverse direction ~~in accordance with a conventional method of manufacturing reclosable packaging.~~

On page 10, amend the paragraph on lines 4-19 as follows:

FIG. 3 shows an uncut tape of connected slider-zipper assemblies occupying the channel inside the slider guide. At regular intervals, the tape of slider-zipper assemblies is advanced a predetermined distance by the drive mechanism (to be described in detail below with reference to FIGS. 5 and 6). The tape of connected slider-zipper assemblies is advanced through the slider guide until the assembly at the end reaches the desired position overlying the packaging material. The slider-zipper assembly at the end of the tape is then cut to separate this assembly from the tape. The separated assembly is then heat sealed to the packaging film. In order to illustrate the location where the slider-zipper assembly tape is cut, a dashed line designated by numeral 35 has been included in FIG. 3, although it should be understood that the cut is made when the cut portion of the tape lies outside the slider guide. As can be seen in FIG. 3, the tape

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is ~~repeated~~ repeatedly cut along a line which generally bisects the crushed or fused regions that form respective slider stops at adjacent ends of successive slider-zipper assemblies. The cutting and sealing operations may be performed using well-known automated devices.

On page 12, amend the paragraph on lines 3-9 as follows:

The slider tape drive assembly depicted in FIG. 6 further comprises a guide plate 48 which is positioned forward of the idler roller 36. The lower slider guide 6 is attached to the guide plate 48 by means of fasteners (not shown). The upper slider guide 4 is in turn fastened to the lower slider guide 4 by fasteners 66, as previously described. The guide plate 48 has a beveled surface 68 and a generally horizontal surface 70. The surface 70 guides the zipper flanges toward the roller nip during ~~tap~~ tape advancement.